



## **First Church of Christ in Mansfield (Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church  
The Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor  
Erik Haeger, Organist  
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator  
Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

**June 7, 2026**

### **Welcome to Our Guests!**

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church... if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!*

### **Playing the Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** *My Sweet Lord* (G. Harrison) Cheryl Chase & Laurel Thurman

**Call to Worship** Howard Drescher

Be still!

**The One who cradled the remnant of creation  
in the cleansing waters calls us here.**

Be still! And know this:

**at the present time, God cradles us in safety  
even as fear floods all around us.**

Be still! And know who God is.

**The One who is with us in every moment:  
past, present, and future.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Call to Reconciliation**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Howard Drescher

In the lonely neighbor next door, you come to us, but we do not recognize you;  
in the cries of the children sleeping in the street, you call, but we do not hear you;  
in the laughing hug of an old friend, you bless us, but we cannot feel you.

**Forgive us and make us new.**

In the immigrant who sits beside us on the bus, you accept us, but we will not  
shake your hand; in the family member who tells us to 'forget it,' you forgive us,  
but we dare not let go of what they have done to us.

**Forgive us and make us new.**

In a broken world, we see your mission, but we insist on doing everything our  
way; in the outcast, the poor, the needy, we find you, but we do not care what is  
happening to you; in your death and resurrection, we find life, but we are unable  
to believe you.

**Forgive us and make us new.**

*Silence is kept*

### **Assurance of Grace**

There is no shame in the good news -  
only hope, only life, only joy, only peace.  
Even now, God is forgiving us;  
even now, God is making us new.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **\*Opening Hymn**

*Morning Has Broken*

*CH 53*

### **Hebrew Scripture**

*Psalm 46*

Howard Drescher

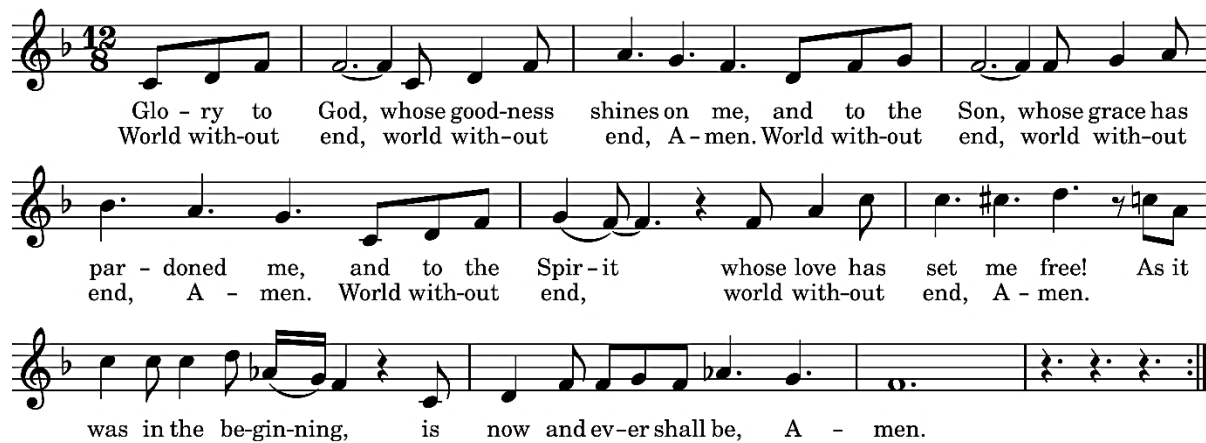
*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice; the earth melts.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations;  
I am exalted in the earth."  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

**\*Song of Praise**

*Glory to God*

Paul Vasile



Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has  
World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out  
par - doned me, and to the Spir - it whose love has set me free! As it  
end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men.  
was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 9:9-13*

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.*

*And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

**Pastoral Meditation**

*Jesus People*

## Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou - bles, and our cares.

Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

## Prayers of the People

### Invitation to Generosity

## Offertory

*Give Me Love* (G. Harrison) Cheryl Chase & Laurel Thurman

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise

5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

### \*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

**Calling God, you spoke to Abram and set him on a journey, not with full clarity, but with full trust. You promised blessing—and with it, purpose. We come now as your people, also journeying by faith, offering these gifts not for our greatness, but so that your promise might be fulfilled through us: to bless the world. Use these offerings to build relationships, to mend the broken, and to draw all families of the earth toward your heart. May our giving reflect our trust, and may our trust lead us to go where you send, step by step, stage by stage, into your future. Amen.**

## Invitation to the Table

### Communion Litany

*"The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body broken for you" (distribute bread)*

One: O God, just as this broken loaf was scattered over the hill as grain,

and, having been gathered together, became one; in like fashion, may your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

**All: *Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.***

This is God's restoration for you. (*partake*)

*"In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the lifeblood of the new covenant, lifeblood poured out for you." (distribute juice)*

One: O God, just as this juice comes from a gathering of grapes grown on a vine rooted deep, in like fashion, may we be rooted in the Vine that is Christ, and bear good fruit together as we look to your kingdom.

**All: *Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.***

"This is God's joy for you." (*partake*)

### **The Prayer of Jesus**

*Please pray with whatever language is comfortable for you. The following are offered as examples...*

**Our Father/Mother/Creator,  
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses,  
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.  
And help us yield not to/lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Amazing Grace*

CH 546

**\*Closing Prayer**

O God,

*as the showers renew the earth,  
bathe us in your healing power.  
Stretch out your hand, that we may live each day  
practicing stillness and knowing that you are who you are:  
Infinite Love in whose faithfulness we have life all our days. Amen.*

### **\*Passing the Peace**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

### **Postlude**

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Portions of this morning's liturgy were written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman in *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies Year A* (2013). Permission has been granted.

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Our Greeter today is Tatyana Dominiques.

Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Our Communion Servers are David Darnell, Gary Cote, Ava Little, Frank Ball.

Coffee Hour is hosted Barbara Dobrocki & Ray LaPointe.

***Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship!***

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### **About Communion at First Church**

At the Last Supper, Jesus turned no one away and imposed no restrictions on receiving the bread and the cup. Neither do we here at the First Church of Christ in Mansfield. Christ's table is open to all, and we extend an extravagant welcome to you to join us. The communion elements will be brought to the pews by servers. Plates containing pieces of bread will be distributed first, followed by trays containing individual cups of grape juice. Each time, worshipers are asked to hold the elements until all have been served and an invitation to partake is spoken from the communion table. For those who wish to know, the cup contains non-alcoholic grape juice and the bread is gluten-free.

## **Special Communion Sunday Offering**

An envelope labeled **Blessing Box** is included in your bulletin on Communion Sundays (every first Sunday of the month.) You may place donations in this envelope and drop it into the offering plate during worship. Every contribution goes directly toward purchasing food for our pantry.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Our June Congregational Meeting will take place on  
Sunday, June 28th immediately following worship.**

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### **~ Annual Reports Are Due ~**

We will need annual reports from the

- Pastor
- Worship Circle Coordinator
- Officers
- Governing Board
- AdMinistry
- Ministry of Caring
- Ministry of Spiritual Life

Any other committees, teams, or groups that have been active during the past 12 months are also asked to provide a brief summary of their activities, including groups such as the following:

- Book Group
- Capital Campaign Committee
- Digital Ministry
- Flower Committee
- Green Church
- Historians
- Pastoral Support Team
- Preparedness Team
- Search Committee
- Sewing and Service

Please email reports to Mandy at [office@mansfielducc.org](mailto:office@mansfielducc.org) **no later than June 15.**

## **THE WEEK AHEAD...**

### **Sunday, June 7**

12:30 p.m. Concert Set-up/Prep

3:00 p.m. Take Note! Concert

### **Wednesday, June 10**

1:00 p.m. Book Group

(No Meditation Group this week)

### **Thursday, June 11**

6:00 p.m. Governing Board